

# INFOCUS

The Official Publication of The Jamaican Canadian Association

**MAY ISSUE 2013**

## LEGACY OF TRAILBLAZERS



**RESPECT**

**DIGNITY**

**COHESIVENESS**

**VISIBILITY**

**EXCELLENCE IN  
SERVICE**





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Welcome to another edition of the Infocus. This past year has been quite challenging to say the least. As an organization we have embarked on a journey of change.

Upon the resignation of the former CEO on January 1st, the Board of Directors took the decision to hire an Interim CEO for a period of one year. This would allow us to complete a review of the JCA's organizational and governance structure while maintaining the status quo. I am pleased to announce that on April 22nd, Mr. Everton Gordon joined the JCA in the capacity of interim Chief Executive Office (CEO). Mr. Gordon has over 20 years experience in community development and social services and has worked directly in housing, health, mental health and the settlement field. He possesses a Master's degree in Social Work and is currently working on his PH.D, focused on refugees and mental health at the University of Toronto. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Gordon to the JCA Team.

As we head into our Annual General Meeting (AGM) the review of our governance model continues. Five former JCA presidents, one staff and three current board members formed a working group committee to conduct the review process. Under the leadership of JCA's Executive Secretary, Adaoma Patterson, The Working Group on the Future of JCA has been engaging members and the wider community on identifying JCA's future structure and priorities. The Working Group continues its analysis of the organization's model in relation to its ability and capacity to meet current complex and diverse community needs. An on-line survey and four community and membership workshops have been held to date and an additional was hosted prior to the AGM. An update on this process was communicated at the Annual General Meeting in May. The social services strategic planning process is complete and the report is being finalized. Once the final version has been ratified by the Board of Directors, it will be presented to JCA's membership, funders and other stakeholders.

As we journey into our 51<sup>st</sup> year we are confident that the reviews that we are currently undertaking, with the input of the membership, will result in a stronger organization, better able to serve our changing community.

Our membership continues to grow but we are in need of more volunteers for our various committees. We need administrative support for our Membership Committee and Walk-a-thon Committee, just to name a few. If you, or anyone you know, are able to volunteer a few hours per month please contact us. Volunteering can be very rewarding.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I wish to thank you for your continued support.

Kindest regards,

*Audrey Campbell*  
President

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CORNER

By Pam Reynolds Membership Chair



### UPDATE

The Membership Services Team is responsible for recruitment, retention and reward. We regularly communicate with members about events and happenings in and around the JCA and the community. Our team facilitates appropriate recognition for JCA and Community members for awards/honours in Canada and Jamaica. We also diligently work with other committees to identify ways and means to assist the Board in meeting its mandate.

We recruited 172 new members since last April and plan to continue outreach activities during the coming months. Your assistance is needed to continue introducing your friends and family to the J.C.A.

Thanks to all of you who came out to the February Quarterly Meeting. We hope to see more in attendance to share ideas, information and opinions that could enhance the growth of the organization.

Maxine Brown	Moses Abdulla	Winnifred Hunter	Jaqueline Ricketts
Rudolph Allen	Marcel Andre Marcellin	Una O'Conner	Myrtella Hodge
Amanda Jaggan	Thyson Marcellin	Shereda Lynch	Donald Campbell
Ionie Grizzle	Mikela Marcellin	Garfield Smith	Janet-Marie Pera
Jacquelin Anglin	Jaida Marcellin	Ruth Antoine	Janet Green
Allan Jones	John Neville Whiting	Egton Ricketts	Gerda Johnson
Karen Hines	Mavis Clarke	Sylvia Edwards	Fay Francis
David Graham	Marcia Wilson	Milford Campbell	Renea Douglas
Margareita Phipps	Wilton Salmon	Judith Bright	Pauline Bowen
Andrea Jarrett	Lindel McCormack	Anwar Lewin	Kingsley & Pauline Gilliam
Clara Blake	Hyacinth Hamilton	Cecil Douglas	Meryln Gaynor
Melvy Willie	Lorraine Hanson	Busuyi James Ogundele	Gregory Hamilton
Jennie Fagan-White	Asha & Imogene	Edgar Weir	Denisency Nelson
Olive Mason	Thomas Dorothy Gordon	Terrance Dicks	Rosemarie Jones-Cattan
Chinedu Okoro	Carlton Edwards	Althia Atkinson	Pamela Waite
Nicola Dove	Adella Howe	Pauline Reynolds	Arthur Ford
Maxine Brown	Joyce Lewis	Jessica Peterkin	Elaine Lawrence
Maxine Bailey	Joseph Clarke	Evan Brown	Dorothy & Alvin McCurdy
Majorie-Angel Brown	Jasmine Davis	Phillip Bloomfield	Marcia Miller
Michael Morgan	Despie Knight	Joyce Morrison	Bernard Brown
Mavis Clarke	Sandra Young	Elizabeth Abbas	Selvin Harris
David Benjamin	Karen Graham	Beryl Wisdom	Myrtle Clarke
Lucille Henry	Dr. I Aslam	Ina Daley	Fabian Nicholson
Maxine Francis	Katherine Gilliam	Sharee Warren-Aluke	Israel Harris
Lisa Arnason	Jordan Davis	Jessica Dacosta	Sharon Kamara
Ileen Howell	Immaculate Tuwmwine	Margaret Roberts	Cayla Allain



# MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CORNER (CONTINUED)

By Pam Reynolds Membership Chair

Florence Wellington-Hamil	Doreen Limamu	Ivy Campbell
Derrick McIntosh	Anthony Anderson	Yvonne Whitfield
Anthony Campbell	Hugh Brown	Vittoria Bailey-Dell
Vernon & Paulette Wilkinson	Patrick Brown	David Gilliam
Floriziel Brown	Neville & Leonie Bailey	Rosa & Christopher Lyn
Albert Spence	Glenroy Williams	Claudia Russell-Placencia
Albert Grizzle	Rhoan Welsh	John & Veronica Kerr
Byron & Norma McCormack	Fredrick Brown	Marjorie Johnson-Wilson
Richard McKenzie	Novellette & Paul Smith-Rowe	Lee-Anne Lyon-Bartley
Gavin Holder	Massell Smith	Hartmut & Sonia Nissen
Olive Arnold	Milton Powell	Ralston & Ann Marie Dyer
Akilah Dressekie	Beverly Thompson	Colett Robinson-Walcott
Lisa Crowell	Marva Jourdine-Tapper	Enid & George Freckleton
Janet Loken	Dianne Dixon	Ben Campbell
Andrew Cooke	Charmaine Segree	Angela McCormack-Piccini
Hon. Romain Pitt	Jamaal Segree	Ronald & Elizabeth Campbell
Rosemarie Myrie	Beulah Cunningham	Junior Wilson & Jesset Johnson
Joyce Loftman	Jenifer DeFour	Anela Dawkins-Thomas
Dorothy Allen	Lloyd Austin	Natasha & Michael Thompson
Majorie Wilson	Jill Summers	D. Cherita Girvan-Campbell
Ann-Marie Reynolds	Gloria & Lilval Ferguson	Maureen Gibbs & Alfred Johnson
Uriel Bailey	Oliver Rose	Ronald & Elizabeth Campbell
Racine Halstead	Charles Smith	

## NOTICE: 2013 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Membership Services Committee Meetings are held on the first (1st) Friday of every month (except where noted) commencing at 6:30 pm. For your convenience, please see the following:

June 7 | July 5 | September 6 | October 4 | November 1 | December 6

## MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

Annual Family Day Picnic - Sunday July 7 - Victoria Park, Cobourg, Ontario

Annual Flag Raising Ceremony - Sunday August 4 - Toronto City Hall | The JCA 2013 Membership Volunteer Services Awards TBA

## THE WISHING WELL GROUP

Our sincere sympathies go to the bereaved families of our members and our heartfelt good wishes for a speedy recovery to those members who are ill or on the road to recovery. We continue to provide support to members and their families through their difficult periods by way of cards, phone calls and/or visits to home/hospital and sometimes to funerals. We ask you all to keep them in your prayers and be sure to let us know of any member who has passed away or is ill.

## PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

We would like to stay in touch with you. Please notify us if you have moved or planning to move by leaving your new address including your apartment number, postal code and telephone number clearly on the voicemail. Please clearly spell out the name of your street.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

By Mrs. Norma Lewis from the Public Relations Committee

On Sunday March 10, 2013, the JCA celebrated International Women's Day with a cornucopia of inspiring women. This year's theme was "The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum".

Our national anthem was rendered by Bruce McDonald, followed with prayer by Haslene Davis and Charmaine Sewell, Chair of the Women's Committee, introduced the host for the afternoon.

The afternoon got off to a great start with our host, Marci Ilen, the charming and popular co-host of Canada AM. Greetings were extended by the current President, Audrey Campbell and by special guests - MP Judy Sgro's representative, Antoniette deJager, the Consul General to Toronto, Seth George Ramocan, and Barbara Hall of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Ms. deJager mentioned a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt, 'A woman is like a tea bag. it is only when she is steeped in hot water, that you realize how strong she is.' The audience revelled in the adage. The Consul General mentioned that he is one of two brothers in a family of eleven. Barbara Hall of Human Rights Commission, commented on the number of women and men who have brought about changes to dealing with child abuse, including several who are associated with the JCA.

The President of the Women's Intercultural Network (WIN) Talat Muinuddin, gave a synopsis of the Network, then asked Kamala-Jean Gopie and Valerie Steele, the first and second women presidents of the JCA to present the following women with recognition certificates - Dr. Enid Collins, Beverley Johnson and Jennifer McFarlane.

The keynote speaker was Marie Clarke Walker, mother, union activist and a 'femtor'. Currently she is the Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress. She got our attention with a chorus from Bob Marley's song "Get up, Stand up". She extended thanks to her ancestors, various persons in the audience, with a special thanks to her mother. Ms. Walker also extended her thanks to the strong black men who came out to lend their support to women's rights. Her theme was One Million Rising, asking women to rise up against rape and violence. Ms. Walker's talk included the fact that the attackers' names are remembered while the victims' names are not. We should strive to remember the victims' name. Susan Thomas was walking home when she was attacked by her pastor. Recently, there was the horrific rape and murder of a young Indian woman, Jyoti Singh Pandey, by 5 men, the most brutal of them a 17-year-old boy. Less than a month later it happened again, this time the victim survived the attack. Most of these attacks are not reported because the victims are afraid to go to the police because of the resulting stigma. Ms. Walker mentioned two other occurrences, one of a father who abused his 13-year-old daughter, who became pregnant and her mother raised the child as her own because her husband was a "respected" member of the community. The other was of a husband who physically abused his wife and his two daughters sexually. One became pregnant and the other joined a gang. She stressed that the acknowledgement of the rights of women and children must be made mandatory for all social services. Stiff sentences should be given to those who are known to be guilty and the punishment should be a deterrent and covered by the media. She ended her talk with a few bars of "Ain't no stopping us now, we are on the move."

Entertainment was provided between segments of the programme, with dances by Lauren Stewart and Sherieffa Smith and a poem by Carmen Sutherland.

The afternoon ended with a delicious meal of chicken, noodles, vegetables and dessert, with an earlier snack of pasties and a tasty vegetable soup. Coffee, tea and fruit punch were also served. A day well spent at the Jamaican Canadian Association.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JCA 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL FUNDRAISER WALK-A-THON


MAY 5, 2013





# JCA MONEY MANAGEMENT FORUM

## June 22, 2013




**JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION**  
ESTABLISHED 1962

**Live Debt Free & Prosper**  
*Come, Play and Learn How*

**Adults**

- Play the Cash Flow game
- Improve your credit rating
- Find the perfect house
- Get the best mortgage
- Build retirement income
- Social Media Marketing
- Protect your family income
- Make a will—prevent heartache

**Saturday, 22nd June**  
9:00 – 3:30 pm



**Students**

Learn all about money management in your very own workshop!

**Prizes & Surprises**

**ADMISSION**

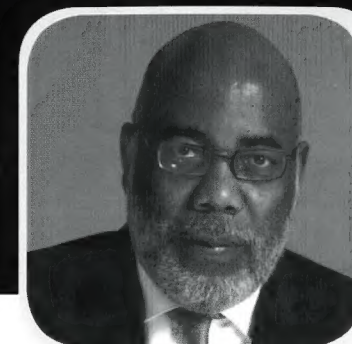
Adults	\$10
Students	\$5
Family (max. 5)	\$20

**Jamaican Canadian Association**  
995 Arrow Road  
(Finch & Hwy. 400)  
Tel 416-746-5772  
hosted by  
**JCA Women's Committee**

## HEALTH TIPS

### GLAUCOMA: THE SILENT THIEF OF SIGHT

By Allan Jones Education & Cultural Chair



Glaucoma is a serious eye disease. There is no known cure, only measures to stop further loss of vision. Glaucoma is a complex eye disorder that has been diagnosed in over 300,000 Canadians. It is estimated that an equal number of other Canadians have the disease but remain undiagnosed. In most cases you are unaware you have the disease and if left untreated, glaucoma will lead to blindness. For every person in Canada blinded by glaucoma, six others have lost their useful vision. Most glaucoma patients have no symptoms and without regular eye examinations, significant damage will occur before the patient is even diagnosed with the disease. Once glaucoma is detected, treatment can be given.

How does glaucoma happen? It is a condition that occurs when there is a build-up of fluid pressure inside the eye, although there are cases where people with low pressures have glaucoma, and conversely, people with greatly elevated pressures may not have glaucoma. If glaucoma is left untreated, the optic nerve which connects the eye to the brain is damaged, leading to impaired vision and ultimately to blindness. In most cases, there are no symptoms associated with glaucoma. Glaucoma is hereditary; a person with a relative who has the disease runs a greater than average risk of developing the disease. If you have diabetes, you are at an even greater risk of having glaucoma. Other risk factors include, being of African descent, being over the age of 50, having short-sightedness and suffering a previous eye injury.

There are many different types of glaucoma. The most common type, which occurs in 80% of all cases, is CHRONIC or OPEN ANGLE glaucoma. It is progressive, gradual, without symptoms and usually affects both eyes. ACUTE ANGLE CLOSURE glaucoma occurs when there is a blockage to the eye's drainage channel. This type of glaucoma is regarded as an emergency, as the pressure increase can occur rapidly and if left untreated, blindness can occur within days. Glaucoma occurs in all ethnic groups. In the 40 year old group, the average rate of glaucoma is 2 to 3 %; however the average rate of glaucoma in people of African descent, is 9%. The disease is more aggressive in Africans and is more difficult to treat.

Early detection and treatment of glaucoma is of extreme importance. A screening examination can be done by an optometrist, ophthalmologist or a family doctor. The optometrists or ophthalmologists are those with the training and instruments to best diagnose glaucoma. If you are 40 years or older, have never been screened for glaucoma, talk to your family doctor and arrange to see an optometrist or ophthalmologist as soon as possible. Remember, you could have glaucoma without knowing that you do. Many glaucoma patients in our society still enjoy a full and active life span while following the regimented therapy prescribed by eye doctors. Once diagnosed, glaucoma requires lifelong treatment.

Remember - untreated glaucoma can lead to blindness.

### FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBERS

We send a special "Thank You" to Raymond O. Reid ((JCA member) for his generous donation of a 51" Flat Screen TV & a DVD Player to the JCA Membership Lounge on December 19, 2012.



# JCA ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

## Sunday July 7, 2013



The Jamaican Canadian Association

Presents

OUR ANNUAL

# Family Day PICNIC

SUNDAY  
JULY 7, 2013

**"A day filled with fun & excitement"**

Bring your own picnic basket, swimwear and shopping shoes.

Come have fun with us!!

**BUSES DEPART FROM 3 LOCATIONS**

**KENNEDY COMMONS (METRO SUPERMARKET) @ 9:30AM SHARP!!**  
**DIXIE & DUNDAS PLAZA (FRESHCO SUPERMARKET) @ 9AM SHARP!!**  
**& THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION @ 9AM SHARP!!**

**RETURN: 9PM**

**ADM: \$30 (Adult) | \$20 (Children)**

DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR ENTRANCE TO PARK FROM THOSE DRIVING DOWN.

For further details contact Membership Chair @ 416.746.5772 ext.249

Email: [info@jcaontario.org](mailto:info@jcaontario.org) | Website: [www.jcaontario.org](http://www.jcaontario.org)

**VICTORIA PARK LIONESS PAVILION COBOURG, ON**

416.746.5772 | [www.jcaontario.org](http://www.jcaontario.org)

The Legacy Continues

## HIGHLIGHTING

THE ACHIEVEMENTS & CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF MR. ROY WILLIAMS



Roy G. Williams was born in the parish of St. Mary, Jamaica, but grew up in Mandeville Manchester. He holds a degree in Business Administration (Accounting Specialty), a B. Bus. Admin., an M. Bus. Ad & Econ. He worked with the Toronto Globe and Mail and then Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. He retired in 1994 after 34 years at Ryerson University with the title of Professor Emeritus. He returned to Jamaica in 1995 and was Professor of Management and Organizational Behavior at the Northern Caribbean University until 2007, when he returned to Canada. He was an entrepreneur who owned real estate, entertainment and ethnic food companies as well as beauty salons. He was the founding president of Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) and held this position from 1962 to 1966. He was re-elected President for 1984-1989. He was the first person of colour to serve as a Commissioner in the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board. Before serving in this position, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Society of Ontario Place. Williams was a member of the Race Relations and Policing Task Force led by Judge Clare Lewis. He received numerous awards including some from the JCA, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and the prestigious Harry Jerome Award for Community Service from the Black Business and Professional Association. He is married and has five grown children.



## HIGHLIGHTING

THE ACHIEVEMENTS & CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF MRS. RAPHAELITA WALKER

Raphaelita Walker has for decades been a generous volunteer, for the benefit of communities in Canada and in her native Jamaica. She has been a member of the Jamaican Canadian Association for almost 50 years, serving in various capacities, including the Social, Fundraising, Women's and Building Committees. She helped raise funds to provide financial support for the youth program. The Seniors' Dinners she initiated and organized have become a much-anticipated annual event. Mrs. Walker's volunteer work with the Christian Children's Fund includes efforts to secure sponsorship of tickets for young people to attend the Harry Jerome Awards, where they would become exposed to positive role models. Mrs. Walker is a founding member of PACE Canada, Project for the Advancement of Childhood Education in Jamaica. She has worked on various PACE committees, including, Adopt-A-School, which provides educational material and toys for children in Jamaica. She has personally adopted two schools there (Charles Chin Loy and High Holborn), which she visits annually. Mrs. Walker studied drafting and design at George Brown College and, after graduation, worked in the fashion industry in Toronto, also designing formal clothing for friends and family. Later, she switched careers and began working as an aide at the Rockcliffe Nursing Home in Scarborough. She enrolled at Centennial College in the registered nurse's aide program and continued working in this field while keeping up with her volunteer commitments. In 1998, Mrs. Walker's family encouraged her to give up her job and become a full time volunteer. Over the years, Mrs. Walker's community service has earned her several awards and accolades. They include: the Jamaican Canadian Association Certificate of Appreciation; the Ontario Volunteer Service Award; the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation for Service to Jamaica; the Committee on Community Race and Ethnic Relations Award and recently the ACAA Community Service Award.

416.746.5772 | [www.jcaontario.org](http://www.jcaontario.org)

The Legacy Continues



## RECOGNIZING TRAILBLAZERS



### **ROY G. WILLIAMS - 1st President of JCA**

Presented with the Queen's Jubilee Award



### **RAPHAELITA WALKER - One of JCA'S Stalwarts**

Presented with the ACAA Community Service Award

## **HIGHLIGHTING ACHIEVEMENTS OF JCA AND ITS FAITHFUL MEMBERS**

This book captures the 50-year history of the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA). Written by its first president, Roy G. Williams, the book covers its founding in 1962 and each succeeding decade thereafter to the present. It documents who did what, when and where as it advocated and represented the interests of the burgeoning number of non-white immigrants from the Caribbean and elsewhere during the 1960s through to the 2000s. It documents JCA'S financial struggles to survive while at the same time it attempted and succeeded in acquiring its own headquarters building on three separate occasions.

(The only black/Caribbean group to do so.)

**PURCHASE YOUR BOOK TODAY!** For further information contact Grace Williams @ 416.746.5772

